

**Motivation:**

I was motivated to be a part of this experience because I was in search for a field-based experience that would also allow me to build my academic and professional network. Ultimately, I wanted to be immersed in a hands-on experience to further validate my passion to work for the conservation of vulnerable species and be sure that this academic path fits my overall passions and aspirations.

**Through this project I was able to:**

- Gain hands-on experience in conservation based field-work
- Learn various methods of data collection
- Be exposed to the reality of field work
- Continue to build professional network



# CRP

## Caretta Research Project

*Protecting Georgia's Sea Turtles Since 1973*

**Project description:**

The Caretta Research Project is a research, conservation, and education program that allows volunteers to gain hands-on experience and a glimpse into the realities of research and conservation efforts with nesting Loggerhead sea turtles. It is based on Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge, off the coast of Savannah, Georgia and utilizes various research and conservation methods to minimize threats to the eggs and hatchlings. From dusk to dawn, participants patrol the coast searching for female sea turtles emerging from the ocean to lay their nests to retrieve various measurements and data for ongoing and future research efforts on this vulnerable species.

**A Transformational Experience:**

My experience in completing volunteer work with the Caretta Research Project has helped in fueling my desire to pursue a conservation-related career. This experience has established a sense of belonging within the network and has challenged me to continue to work for what I love. I have formed a deeper connection to the natural world and the species that live on this planet, which has allowed further validation that I am following my passion to work for the conservation of vulnerable species. As a Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife major specializing in Wildlife Science, I hope to carry my experience and gained knowledge with me throughout the rest of my undergraduate and future careers. I have gained a new perspective for a vulnerable species and will continue to work with an open mind towards the species and environments that surround me.

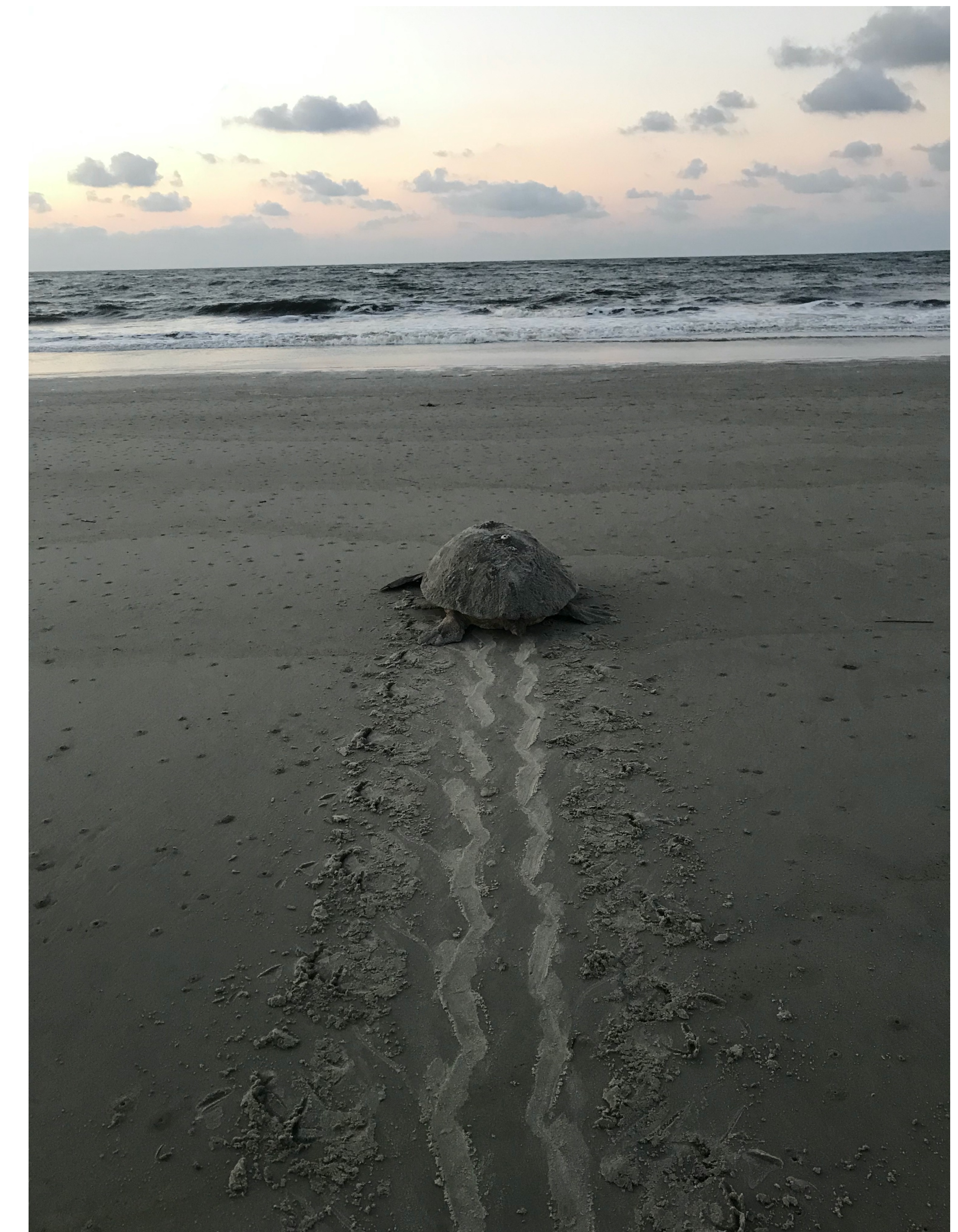


**Name:** Jenna Albaugh

**STEP Project Category:** Service-Learning and Community Service

**STEP Faculty Mentor:** Anna Jenderedjian

**Major:** Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife

**Favorite Part of this Experience:**

My favorite part of this experience was being able to work with and build bonds with individuals with similar backgrounds and aspirations. I also loved being able to interact with vulnerable species and other wildlife that I am not used to seeing on a day to day basis. Being able to work towards the conservation of a vulnerable species was a very fulfilling experience.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

# STEP

Second-year Transformational  
Experience Program